

The Israeli-American Council (IAC) is deeply concerned by Mayor Zohran Mamdani's decision on his first day in office to undo New York City's adoption of the IHRA definition of antisemitism through a blanket revocation of prior executive orders.

At the same time, the Mayor has emphasized that he is retaining the Office of Antisemitism - a move that has drawn media attention and created the appearance of continuity. But an office without a definition is not a solution. It is a hollow gesture.

Removing IHRA - the most widely recognized definition of antisemitism - while preserving the office that relies on it is a familiar and deliberate tactic: claim to oppose antisemitism while stripping away the framework that defines it.



Antisemitism cannot be addressed through symbolism or administrative sleight of hand. Without use of a clear and internationally recognized definition that covers the many ways in which Jew hatred manifests, enforcement becomes subjective, inconsistent, and ultimately ineffective. This will inevitably leave Jewish communities more vulnerable, not less.

We call on the Mayor to state clearly whether he intends to re-adopt the IHRA definition or continue claiming opposition to antisemitism while eliminating the tools essential for combating it.

Clarity matters. Definitions matter. And actions taken in the first hours of a new mayoral administration matter deeply.

IAC will continue to speak plainly and advocate forcefully for real, not performative, protections against antisemitism in all its forms.